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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 001020

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/22/2014

TAGS: PHUM PGOV PREF PREL VM NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH SHARE EU DEMARCHE TO VIETNAM

REF: A. SECSTATE 86031

1B. SECSTATE 82712

1C. HANOI 1114

1D. DUBLIN 587

Classified By: PolCouns Mary E. Daly Reasons 1.5 (b) and (d)

11. (C) The Dutch government remains concerned about the situation of the Vietnamese Montagnards in the Central Highlands. Following the volatile situation April 10-11, the Dutch immediately contacted the Irish EU Presidency to register concern and request EU action. (Note: The Dutch are acting as the local EU Presidency embassy in Hanoi. End note.) Unfortunately, due to the slow EU process, reaction to the incidents and the GVN response was slow. EU missions in Hanoi were given instruction on the 19th to approach the GVN. (Note: The (Dutch-drafted) demarche text begins Para 13. End note.)

12. (C) The Dutch Human Rights Ambassador, Piet de Klerk, will conduct a bilateral visit to Vietnam in mid-May. This visit is one of several to the region, and demonstrates the Dutch government's desire to ensure that bilateral cooperation is deeply connected to human rights issues. (Note: Vietnam receives significant Dutch aid. The GoNL will contribute approximately 21 million euros this year via both multilateral and bilateral programs. End Note.) Desk officer Hein Copper stated that, in light of recent events, the delegation is now considering including a trip to the Central Highlands during the visit.

13. (C) Following is text of Dutch-drafted Irish presidency demarche message to EU members, which the GoNL reported was achieved without changes. It was recommended for urgent delivery by EU Troika Ambassadors in Hanoi by EU HOMs resident in Hanoi:

Begin Quote:

- expressing concern about the events that took place;
- requesting information on the events that took place, including numbers of persons killed, injured, arrested and detained as well as charges against those detained
- call on the authorities to fully respect international human right standards in their longer term response to the protests during the Easter Weekend
- calling on the authorities to allow peaceful demonstrations to take place and not to use excessive force during demonstrations
- calling on the authorities to reestablish a tripartite agreement with UNHCR and Cambodia and allow UNHCR access to the Central Highlands to monitor the situation
- requesting access to the area for diplomats, international press, other UN agencies and international NGOs
- requesting authorities to investigate the grievances of the ethnic minority people, to address them and to respect the freedom of religion of the ethnic minority people in the Central Highlands

End Quote.

14. The Dutch government will assume the EU presidency on July 1, and will likely act as local presidency representative in Vietnam during the Luxembourg presidency in the first half of 2005.

SOBEL